

AGN. NO.

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

July 20, 2010

Proclaim Bebe Moore Campbell Minority Mental Health Awareness Month

Mental illness is one of the leading causes of disabilities in the United States, affecting one in four families and victimizing both those with the illness and their caretakers. Two-thirds of people with mental illness, particularly those from minority communities, do not seek treatment due to stigma, lack of community-based resources, and inadequate or lack of diagnosis. Poverty level also has an impact on the mental health status of all Americans. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found adults living below the poverty level were four times more likely to have serious psychological distress as compared to adults over twice the poverty level. The Surgeon General's Report on Mental Health: Culture, Race and Ethnicity found racial and ethnic minorities are overrepresented among the poor and are at least two to three times more likely to experience a mental disorder. In general, minority communities have less access to, and less availability of mental health services. Minority communities need

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resources where faith, culture, customs, and values are considered in treatment and diagnosis.

The late Bebe Moore Campbell's interest in mental health was sparked by a family member's struggle with mental illness. Her dedication and commitment to support mental wellness through effective treatment, open access to mental health services, improved community outreach and support, and tireless advocacy to bring awareness and attention to mental illness among minorities remains unmatched. She authored the novel, "72 Hour Hold", and her children's book "Sometimes My Mommy Gets Angry", both bringing awareness to the plight of those with brain disorders.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Urban Los Angeles celebrates Bebe Moore Campbell National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month every July by enhancing public awareness of mental illness, identifying resources for treatment and support, strengthening the focus on treatment, and calling for research on the effects of mental illness on minority communities.

THEREFORE, I MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS join NAMI Urban Los Angeles to recognize July 2010 as Bebe Moore Campbell Minority Mental Health Awareness Month.

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